



Managing Used Oil Filters

Under EPA's final rule, effective June 19, 1992, non terne-plated used oil filters are exempt from hazardous waste regulations if they have been gravity **hot-drained** (drained near engine operating temperature and above 60 °F for a minimum of 12 hours) using one of the following methods:

- Puncturing the filter anti-drain back valve or the filter dome end and hot-draining;
- Hot-draining and crushing;
- Dismantling and hot-draining; or
- Any other equivalent hot-draining method that will remove the used oil.

Terne (a lead-tin alloy) serves as a plating on some oil filters. Heavy-duty vehicles such as buses, semi-tractors or construction equipment may use terne-plated oil filters; light-duty automobiles and trucks typically use non-terne-plated filters. If you use terne-plated filters, you must have them tested using the Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), and if they exceed the 5 ppm standard for lead, they must be transported by and disposed at an authorized hazardous waste facility. For more information about hazardous waste regulations, contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Waste Control Program, at (303) 692-3320.

Partners for a Clean Environment Certification Requirement

To receive certification in the Partners for a Clean Environment program, auto repair shops are required to recycle their spent oil filters. Spent oil filters are typically stored in 55-gallon drums that hold on average 200 uncrushed filters or 400 crushed filters. Drums are usually provided by the recycling vendor (they may require a deposit). Pick-up and recycling costs can range from \$35 to \$115 per 55-gallon drum, which amounts to **18 to 58 cents** per filter uncrushed and **9 to 29 cents** per crushed filter. A filter crusher costs about \$1,500 and will generate additional waste oil. Some local companies that recycle spent oil filters and their price quotes are listed below. Partners for a Clean Environment in no way endorses any of the companies, nor regards this as a complete list of oil filter recyclers. Direct any questions to Bill Hayes at 303-441-1574 Sarah Van Pelt at 303-441-1914.

Company	Phone number	Cost/drum (4/7/00)
Tri State Oil	(303) 825-0742	\$100/55-gallon drum, \$50/30-gallon drum for uncrushed or crushed filters. Also handle waste oil.
Mesa Oil	(303) 426-4777	\$35/55-gallon drum for crushed or uncrushed filters. Also handle waste oil.
Safety Kleen	(303) 761-8614	\$115/30-gallon drum for crushed or uncrushed filters. Also offer bin that holds up to 6 55-gallon drums - \$79/55-gallon drum for uncrushed of \$89/55-gallon drum crushed. Prices vary with the amount of other service. Also handle waste oil.
Thermo Fluids	(303) 393-1118	\$65/55-gallon drum for uncrushed or \$70/55-gallon drum for crushed filters. Also handle waste oil.